

Did You Know?

This debris is commonly called 'slash' or 'laps.'

- To be most effective, this should be done as the skidding is taking place, not simply after the job is completed. As the equipment operates on the debris, it helps break down the debris with each pass.
- Packing down logging debris is often an effective and affordable BMP to install at the approaches to stream crossings.

Part 6 -- Decks and Landings

Did You Know?

Other names for decks include: landings, ramps, setouts and docks.

Log decks are locations where trees, logs or other forest products are removed from the forest and temporarily placed so they can be loaded onto trucks and transported from the job site. Because of the disturbance to exposed soil and repeated equipment traffic in a concentrated area, decks have the potential to produce significant runoff and erosion. As a result, there are rules that determine certain actions and practices that must be undertaken to protect water quality. These rules are noted below:

Rules Related to Decks and Landings

Forest Practices Guidelines Related to Water Quality (FPGs)

North Carolina General Statute 77-13 and General Statute 77-14

DWQ riverbasin and watershed 'Riparian Buffer Rules'

These 'buffer rules' set limitations on the location of decks and landings.

North Carolina Dredge and Fill Law

This state law requires that permits be secured for discharges of dredged or fill material in certain locations within the 20 Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) counties. Refer to Chapter 6 for more information on this law.

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BMPs for Decks & Landings

- Minimize the number and size of decks.
- Establish decks at locations where soil disturbance is minimized.
- Site your deck with these factors in mind, as conditions allow:
 - Outside of the SMZ. If a deck must be sited within the SMZ, read and understand the requirements outlined within **FPG .0201**.
 - Outside of ephemeral drainages.
 - On flat terrain or gentle slopes.
 - Upon stable soils.
- Control runoff and/or capture sediment that flows off of the deck site.
- During use of the deck, maintain groundcover materials on exposed bare soil areas that may pose a risk to accelerated erosion.

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For Forest Owners:

Deck locations should provide the most efficient access for the site, to minimize the number that are needed.

Consider using the BMPs in this Part 6 for portable in-woods sawmills, wood chippers, and debris processors.

- If decks must be placed in steep terrain:
 - Select side-ridge locations as high on the slope as practical, to provide as much room as possible for controlling runoff and/or capturing sediment before it reaches a waterbody at the bottom of the slope.
 - Use more BMPs than usual to control runoff and capture sediment.

Caption:

This active logging deck has some BMPs worth noting:

- Flat terrain so runoff is easier to control.
- Open sunny area to promote drying of the soil after precipitation.
- Wooden road pallets / mats promote soil stabilization.
- Crushed gravel minimizes soil disturbance and provides good traction for log trucks.

Figure 5GG: Active logging deck

